

DIVERSIONS

THE STYLE INVITATIONAL

Comeback kidders: The year in redo

BY PAT MYERS

Week 1415 was Part 1 of our annual retrospective; you could enter any of 25 contests from the first half of the past year. (Next week, the rest.) Lots more, including parodies and cartoon captions, at wapo.st/invite1419.

4th place:

Week 1387, drop letters from a movie title

THE SILENCE OF THE (Lam) BS: We may not get it by Jan. 20, but at least it won't be coming from the Oval Office. (William Kennard, Arlington)

3rd place:

Week 1370, use only the letters of a person's name to write about that person

Thomas Jefferson: After major efforts, these men are free! . . . Oh. Those other men are not. (Sarah Walsh, Rockville)

2nd place and the 1968 'Republicans for McCarthy' button:

Week 1367, pickup lines:

From Dan Snyder: "Weren't you in that sexy secret video I never saw?" (Steve Smith, Potomac)

And the winner of the Clowning Achievement:

Week 1376, add a character to a Shakespeare play:

Antony in "Antony & Cleopatra": You do mistake your business. Rudy Giuliani: No, I MEANT to hold this press conference at Four Seasons Total Landscaping. (Duncan Stevens, Vienna, Va.)

Seconds to spare: Honorable mentions

Week 1364, crossword clues for a prefiled grid

ACACIA: Agency that spies on Obamacare applicants (Ellen Raphaeli, Falls Church)

OHOH: What Atnas shouts at the South Pole as he slides up your yemnich (Jon Gearhart, Des Moines)

FAMILYTREE: What should have lots of olive/yew branches (Kathy El-Assal, Middleton, Wis.)

Week 1365, a poem about someone who died in 2019

Jim Fowler, "Wild Kingdom" zoologist "Watch Jim squeeze the giant snake!"

That was Marlin Perkins' take. "Hold that lion's mouth open wide!"

Marlin said, and Jim complied. Did the creature bite or sting? Jim, not Marlin, held the thing. Surely Jim had help divine To make it to age 89.

(Mark Raffman, Reston)

Week 1366, neologisms containing the letter block LIAR

Roverfamiliar: What your neighbor's dog is when he sniffs your crotch. (Tom Witte, Montgomery Village)

Garlicorice: A short-lived variety of Twizzlers that was much stronger in flavor than in sales. (Jesse Frankovich, Lansing, Mich.)

Week 1367, pickup lines

From a psychic: "You look familiar. Haven't I seen you here next year?" (Rob Cohen, Potomac)

From Dwayne Haskins: Will you help me complete a pass at you? (Stephen Dudzik, Olney)

Week 1369, jokes based on misheard words

Mob boss sees an old lady struggling to cross the street, sends off one of his thugs to offer to help. Thug walks over, shoots the lady dead. He comes back and says: "Well, I offered her, boss, but I'm not sure it helped." (Jon Ketzner, Cumberland, Md.)

Week 1371, neologisms from ScrabbleGrams 'racks'

EGNORSU > Noserug: A mask too big for the wearer's face. (Chris Damm, Charles Town, W.Va.)

Week 1375, reinterpret a headline by adding a bank head

Headline: D.C. bans indoor dining in restaurants for three weeks
Bank head: "That's way too long to sit there." District says (Duncan Stevens)

Headline: Bad drivers in D.C. could soon get a serious warning sent straight to their cellphones

Bank head: Flashing text alert will read 'Stop looking at your texts!' (Hannah Seidel, Alexandria)

Week 1376, add a character to a Shakespeare play

Jaques in "As You Like It": Give me leave to speak my mind, and I will through and through cleanse the



BOB STAAKE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

New contest for Week 1419: Send us the bill — 'joint legislation'

The Moore-Moore Tax Cut for the Rich
The Bordeaux-Moore-Greene Act to stop with the eco-friendly toilet paper already
The Good-Spartz Act to make election losers shut up and go home

Holy moly, if there were ever a time for Congress to sit down and work together . . .

We're pretty sure we felt that in 2019 and 2017 as well, but this time we hope that this latest installment of our biennial "joint legislation" contest will help our national lawmakers bind their wounds, and reach out across the aisle as they read the results of this contest, and in true concord, look straight at each other and say, "Whaaaaa?"

This week: Combine two or more names from the list below of the new members of Congress to "co-sponsor" a bill based on their combined last names, and state its purpose, as in the examples above. We're just playing with the sound of their names, not referring to the sens and reps themselves. Note the pronouncers next to some of the names; the Empress will accept a small stretch of pronunciation, but you can't pretend that, say, Rep. Peter Meijer pronounces his name "Major." (It's pronounced "myer," as shoppers at his family's huge Midwestern supermarket chain know.)

Still, one of 2019's top winners was the **Sherrill-Watkins-Scott** resolution that younger siblings should get to play with the older kids' toys — as in "share all what kin's got."

If you think that maybe the E won't understand your entry, please follow it with a translation, but do it on a separate line so she can try without it. Her strong advice: Ask one or two other people to read your "bill," without any hints, and see if they get it.

The 76 newbies (since January 2019): Auchincloss (AWK-in-closs); Bentz; Bice (rhymes with "rice"); Bishop; Boebert (BO-ber); Bordeaux; Bowman; Bush; Cammack (CAM-mick); Carl; Cawthorn; Clyde; Donalds; Fallon; Feenstra; Fernandez; Fischbach; Fitzgerald; Franklin; Garbarino; Garcia; Gimenez (hi-MEN-eh); Gonzales; Good; Greene; Hagerty (haggerty); Harshbarger; Herrell (HER-ell); Hickenlooper; Hinson; Issa (EYE-sa); Jackson; Jacobs; Jones; Kahele (ka-HELL-ay); Keller; Kelly; Kim; LaTurner; Lujan (loo-hahn); Lummis (with a short "lum"); Mace; Malliotakis (mally-o-TOCK-iss); Mann; Manning; Marshall; McClain; Meijer (myer); Mfume (mm'FOO-may); Miller; Miller-Meeks; Moore; Moore; Mrvan (mer-VAN); Murphy; Nehls (nails); Newman; Olberholte (olber-nolty); Ossoff; Owens; Pfluger (fluger); Rosendale; Ross; Salazar; Sessions; Spartz; Steel; Strickland; Tiffany; Torres; Tuberville (tubberville); Valadao (vala-DAY-o); Van Duyn (van DINE); Warnock; Williams.

Submit up to 25 entries at wapo.st/enter-invite-1419 (no capitals in the Web address). **Deadline is Monday, Jan. 25;** results appear Feb. 14 in print, Feb. 11 online.

Winner gets the Clowning Achievement, our new Style Invitational trophy. Second place receives a genuine **Four Seasons Total Landscaping coffee mug.** (We can drip hair dye into it for a nominal charge.) Donated by Loser Frank Osen.

Other runners-up win their choice of our "For Best Results, Pour Into Top End" Loser Mug or our "Whole Fools" Grossery Bag. Honorable mentions get one of our lusted-after Loser magnets, "No 'Bility'" or "Punderachiever." First Offenders receive only a smelly tree-shaped air "freshener" (FirStink for their first ink). See general contest rules and guidelines at wapo.st/InvRules. The headline "Comeback Kidders" is by Kevin Dopart; Chris Doyle wrote the honorable-mentions subhead. Join the lively Style Invitational Devotees group on Facebook at [on.fb.me/invdev](https://www.facebook.com/on.fb.me/invdev).

The Style Conversational: The Empress's weekly online column discusses each new contest and set of results. See this week's at wapo.st/conv1419.

Special guest on the "You're Invited" podcast! It's a half-hour interview with **Bob Staake**, who, over the course of his 27 years as the Invite's cartoonist, went and became a world-famous children's book author and magazine cover artist. See bit.ly/invite-podcast.

foul body of th'infected world, if they will patiently receive my medicine.

Fauci: Yeah, lots of luck. (Dan Helming, Trenton, N.J.)

Oberon in "A Midsummer Night's Dream": But, notwithstanding, haste; make no delay/ We may effect this business yet ere day.

Mitch McConnell: No. (Sam Mertens, Silver Spring)

Week 1379, puns on song titles

Czech President Vaclav Havel was an avid baker, but he was often frustrated by his country's supply-chain problems. One day he asked his wife to pick up some ingredients, but she responded, "Where, Havel? The flour's gone!" (Duncan Stevens)

Week 1380, delete letters from a word to reveal a related one

ParticipaNTS: They're not always on when the Zoom call starts. — J.

Toobin (Kevin Dopart, Washington)

DOMinion: What you can't trust to give you accurate election results. (Jonathan Jensen, Baltimore)

Week 1382, 'breed' two Kentucky Derby winners and name the foal

Foolish Pleasure x Apollo = Schwing and a Myth (Jonathan Paul, Garrett Park)

Big Brown x Always Dreaming = UPSy Dazey (Perry Beider, Silver Spring)

Week 1387, drop letters from a movie title:

SherLOCK HOLMES: Famed detective investigates a troubling series of Style Invitational prizes. (Jesse Frankovich)

Still running — deadline Monday night, Jan. 18: our contest for words including the letter block UNDO in any order. See wapo.st/invite1418.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"HITTING THE BIG LEAGUES" By C.C. BURNIKEL

ACROSS
1 Splendid display
5 Unable to decide
9 Stars in wonder
13 Leaf through
17 Superlative prefix
18 Quick attack
19 Causing the willies
20 Malek of "Mr. Robot"
21 "Discount ticket based on age
23 "Raffle rewards, perhaps
25 Sonata producer
26 Downed with an ax
28 Ration (out)
29 Grain in granola
30 Piece of cake
32 Acknowledge surreptitiously, maybe
34 Pretender
36 Checking account lure
39 Mo. with dog days
41 Winter's day outburst
42 Most capable
44 One who gives a hoot
45 "Avocado misnomer
48 Investigate again, as a cold case
51 Itinerary abbr.
52 "Gimme a minute"
53 Part of a journey
56 Gets by
58 Downright or outright
60 Beer with a black eagle in its logo
62 Waze option: Abbr.
63 Playground response
65 Mexican buffet feature
67 Trio for A-Rod and Trout
69 "Cause of some back pain
72 Garden rodent
73 Lea Salonga, e.g.
75 Publisher Larry , portrayal for which Woody Harrelson received an Oscar nomination
76 IOC country code three before Qatar
77 Virtual alter ego
78 Finds

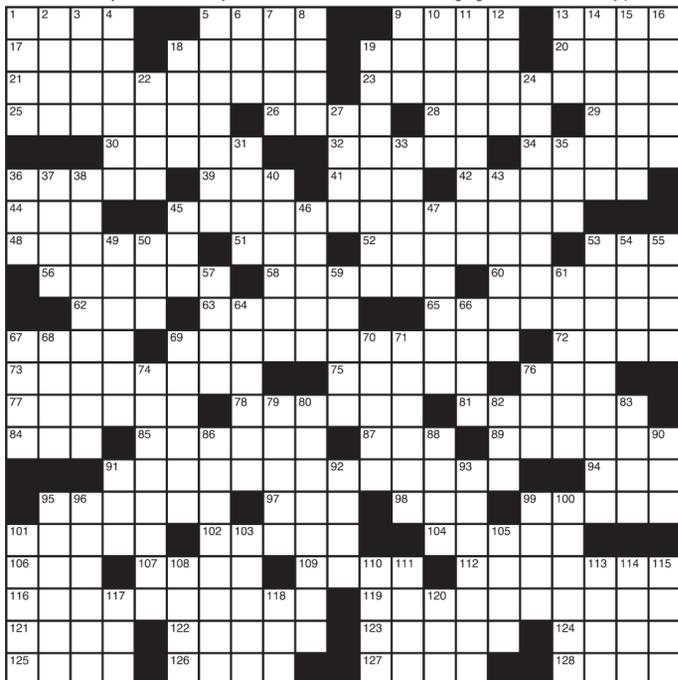
81 Everest expert
84 Diego Padres
85 "The Irishman" Oscar nominee
87 Encountered
89 Many Oscar nominees
91 "Pre-wedding bash
94 Olive extract
95 "See ya"
97 Brouhaha
98 Sweetie, in slang
99 Twitch stream annoyance
101 Civil War general
102 Cried in the cornfield
104 Aficionado
106 Squid's squirt
107 Inquires
109 Exec's aide
112 Having significant consequences
116 "It's not 112-Across
119 Leaving the amateur ranks, and a hint to the answers to starred clues
121 B-school subject

122 Autobahn autos
123 Layered veggie
124 Millions
125 Puts in stitches
126 Part of a process
127 Golf great Karrie
128 Asian laptop brand
DOWN
1 Promotional campaign
2 Follow
3 Channel guide, say
4 Hamlet, for one
5 Like salves
6 "For You" co-singer Rita
7 Impulsive
8 Wall St.'s "Big Board"
9 Nat ___ Wild: cable channel
10 Pizzeria allure
11 Bugs in cop shows
12 Held on to
13 Hindu honorific
14 Easy-to-play instruments
15 "To clarify ..."

16 Not quite foggy
18 Hall of Fame quarterback
19 Sitcom sewer worker
22 Garfield's frenemy
24 Supersedes
27 Dallas Wings' org.
31 Grass-skirt dance
33 Monotonous sound
35 Yachter's pronoun
36 Neighbor of Den.
37 Had to pay
38 "Building diagram
40 Building beam
43 Ladybug or weevil
45 "I'll take that as
46 Understanding
47 Feature of Japan's flag
49 Watch dogs?
50 L.A.-to-Tucson dir.

53 "Workforce List-ending abbr.
55 "Chicago" star
57 Unstable
subatomic particle
59 Spots for ski racks
61 Flomp
64 Amp carrier
66 Language ___
67 Degs. for playrights
68 Bounty rival
69 High seas
70 Dry spell at the plate
71 Blood bank category
74 Chicago NFL team's founder
76 Push-up target
79 Marriage acquisition
80 Alton Brown cooking show
"Reloaded" in 2018
82 Monetary trifle, in slang
83 La Scala highlight

86 Borrow from a library
88 Disneyland shuttle
90 Sneaky
91 Nap site
92 Engine parts
93 One who scoffs at bagged peko, perhaps
95 "No fighting!"
96 Informal "Get me?"
99 Laura of "Big Little Lies"
100 Total mystery
101 Silent performers
103 Line to the audience
105 Blood line
108 Retreats with peels
110 Pack away
111 Adjust for pitch
113 Crude cartel
114 Implore
115 Go sky-high
117 Walk-... small roles
118 Quick drink
120 Celery piece



1/17/21

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Answers to last week's puzzle below.

HOROSCOPE

BY MADALYN ASLAN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY | Jan. 17: Powerful, self-disciplined and goal-directed, you pack a serious punch with a beautiful presence. You learned very early what makes a human tick, and you use this knowledge this year to create a successful and profitable product. If single, you date often and commit never, but this changes in 2022. If attached, you're still excited about each other and have lots of fun together. Gemini doesn't like to be dominated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Today begins on a soft, dreamy note. It's time to reflect, regroup and learn from the past. You have insight into the sources behind old disappointments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Friends are sincere and supportive. Favors are unexpectedly returned. Involvement in a club or group can be very beneficial. You will be wise in your selection of long-range goals. Working on projects that have enduring quality brings satisfaction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Today makes your environment more sociable and friendly. Use creative ideas and add a touch of beauty to duties today. Don't indulge in gossip. Loyalties are changing, and politics are especially volatile.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

There is a lovely flow of communication today. Stimulating conversation expands your ideas and helps you plan the route to achieve your goals and objectives. A friendship with a foreign-born person brings not only companionship but a new perspective.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Others make suggestions about money management. Check with your inner psyche before acting too quickly on unsolicited advice. You may develop a new work skill or be offered a second project.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Ethics and legal matters are a focus. You will be repelled by any people or situations that aren't entirely above board. You'll evaluate how useful relationships are and will intensify those that are most significant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Accept what you feel is inevitable. Resist the temptation to complain about routine chores, and count your blessings. Your health and fitness are a focus. An animal either enters or leaves your household.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You'll find emails and calls pouring in from old friends and family members who have been out of touch. Try not to get too distracted from important tasks though. It's easy to let pleasure and love come first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

A relative who's been cranky has a change of heart. Be patient and let time heal a family conflict. Analyze habits and patterns for insight into domestic decisions. There is a sense of deja vu with family members.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You will use words in a clever, convincing way. Your judgment is good. Make choices and commitments. A short impromptu journey goes well. You'll feel the urge to travel a bit. Be patient with a neighbor or sibling.

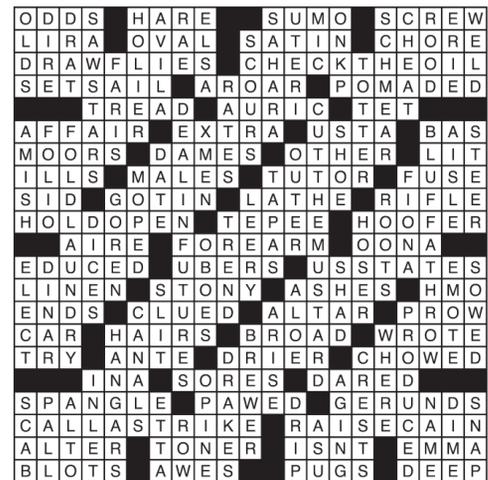
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Resist the temptation to argue about money with loved ones. The stress it might create is not worthwhile. Adding novelty and variety to your daily routine and obligations will renew your enthusiasm.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today there is an emphasis on camaraderie and teamwork. You will develop an immediate rapport with new acquaintances. Ask for help and information. Others go out of their way to please you.

Answers to last week's puzzle.



1/10/21